

DISSEMINATING SEISMOLOGY IN LIGURIA, NORTHERN ITALY

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Abstract

In this contribution we describe and discuss some activities of our working group to disseminate scientific issues concerning seismology to the students of the Region Liguria. Since 2004 we have first joined and then organized teaching and applicative programs to make students of any school level informed about causes, consequences and preparedness of earthquakes and tsunamis with a special attention to the hazard of the region. Our experience spans from classes directly given in schools, exhibitions, conferences and special events. The number of students involved raises from 20-25 to 100 per time. Exhibitions are organized as short tours among panels and posters showing the main features of the relevant aspect to be described. Conferences are about special topics (the recent seismicity of the area, the historical earthquakes of the region, description of a particular seismic event). Special events are made of more than one activity, for example exhibition and conference, laboratories or exercises. In any activity, much room is devoted to the direct participation of students and teachers through short quizzes or discussions. The most important feedbacks from our projects are:

- Language must be adapt to the age and knowledge of the students.
- Interactivity (in the form of questions and answers) is recommended to keep the attention of students. Exercises or games where all students can physically play a role are also very positive. Other forms of interactivity have to be pursued only if all participants have similar facilities (for example many computers), otherwise it turns to be a negative aspect.
- Usage of self-explaining animations, figures or videos is of great help.
- Labs, applications and exercises may help the students to understand the scopes of the research.
- The availability of one or more measuring instruments makes the students get the feeling of the importance of the data collection (and of the problems linked to it).

In this presentation, photos and short clips of the activities are used to show the main features of the organized meetings.